

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 296216

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/RP:JW WINAM:CEJ
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON
S: MR PASSAGE
S/S:MR. ORTIZ
PM - MR. VEST

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O 041547Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 296216

EXDIS - FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BA, US, SA

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: (A) JIDDA 7801, (B) MANAMA 1941

THE SECRETARY AGREES IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO DELAY YOUR APPROACH TO SAUDIS ON MIDDLE EAST FORCE SOMEWHAT IN ANTICIPATION OF AN EARLY RESPONSE FROM BAHRAINI PRIME MINISTER INDICATING GOB IS INCLINED TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO OUR REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF US NAVY PRESENCE. AT SAME TIME, WE MUST TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION POSSIBILITY THAT BAHRAINI LEADERS WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING WITH THE "QUICK RESPONSE" PRIME MINISTER PROMISED AMBASSADOR CLUVERIUS AND THAT A NUDGE FROM THE SAUDIS WOULD BE HELPFUL IN PROMPTING A TENTATIVE FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM THEM. THUS, IN ABSENCE OF FAVORABLE NEWS FROM BAHRAINIS OVER NEXT FEW WEEKS, WE MAY NEED TO RECONSIDER TIMING OF APPROACH TO SAUDIS. KISSINGER

SECRET

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